
PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH
REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1953

F. J. HALLINAN,
M.B.E. (Mil.), M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
*Area Medical Officer, No. 7 Area,
Monmouthshire.
District Medical Officer,
Pontypool Urban District.*

MARKET BUILDINGS,
CRANE STREET,
PONTYPOOL, MON.

APRIL, 1954.

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PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1953

Area of District	15,907 acres
Rateable value (1.4.'53)	£184,380
Estimated net product of 1d. rate (1953-54)	£680
Number of inhabited houses (1953)	12,004
Number of Council-owned houses (31.12.'53)	2,880
Number of Council houses built during 1953	172
Population (estimated mid 1953)	42,320
Number of persons per house	3.5
Census population, 1951	
(21,260 males : 21,423 females)	42,683
Census population, 1931	
(22,723 males : 21,187 females)	43,910
Number of live births	683
Birth rate per 1,000 population	16.1
Number of illegitimate births	17
Number of stillbirths	13
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population	0.31
Number of deaths	466
Crude death rate (i.e. deaths per 1,000 population)	11.0
Number of infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under 1 year of age)	23
Infant mortality rate	33.7
Number of maternal deaths	1
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis	5
Death rate per 1,000 population from pulmonary tuberculosis	0.12
Deaths from cancer of the lungs and bronchi	17
Death rate per 1,000 population from cancer of the lungs and bronchi	0.40
Deaths from cancer - all forms	100
Death rate per 1,000 population from cancer (all forms)	2.36
Percentage of total deaths for 1953 due to cancer of the lungs and bronchi	3.65
Percentage of total deaths for 1953 due to tuberculosis of the lung	1.07

Year	Births	Deaths
1947	816	527
1948	744	478
1949	740	531
1950	743	510
1951	697	568
1952	699	507
1953	683	466

PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillors:

Chairman: G. R. TRIM, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: H. BULLIMORE

Wards:

Garndiffaith:

I. H. TUCKER
D. J. PRITCHARD
Mrs. G. D. MORGAN

Abersychan:

W. HIGGS
D. T. GULLICK
Miss D. WEBB

Snatchwood:

C. H. NEWMAN
E. H. PARKER
R. K. TELFER

Wainfelin:

G. R. TRIM, J.P.
J. E. BUTCHER
Mrs. E. M. HILL

Pontypool:

W. G. HILLIER
Mrs. F. M. PROSSER
H. J. ROSSER
J. H. EVANS

Pontymoile:

Mrs. M. L. LEE, J.P.
W. L. JACKSON

Griffithstown:

L. LEWIS
Mrs. C. MARTIN
C. J. IRVING

New Inn and Sebastopol:

A. C. JONES
L. C. LEWIS
H. BULLIMORE

Council Meeting—Last Tuesday in each month at 6 p.m.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Committee is a major one comprising all members of the Council.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. M. L. LEE, J.P.

Public Health Committee Meeting:
Tuesday following the first Monday in each month.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	..	F. J. HALLINAN, M.B.E. (Mil.), M.B., B.CH., B.A.O. (N.U.I.), D.P.H. (Wales).
Chief Sanitary Inspector	..	F. G. MEEK, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	..	B. GILFORD, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	..	J. M. JONES, CERT. R.S.I.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	..	K. H. D. WILKINS, A.R.S.I., M.R.I.P.H. & H.
Clerk to Department		Mrs. E. B. DAVIES

All the Sanitary Inspectors are qualified as
meat inspectors.

OTHER COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Clerk of the Council		H. COOK (Solicitor)
Deputy Clerk		W. A. STEVENS
Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer		T. R. JAMES
Engineer and Surveyor		T. EDWARDS, M.I.MUN.E.
Deputy Engineer and Surveyor	..	W. BROWN, A.M.I.MUN.E., A.M.I.C.E.
Architect		C. DAWKES, L.R.I.B.A.
Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Superintendent	..	W. R. DADGE, F.INST.P.A., M.INST.B.C.A.
Housing Manager		H. J. ALDHOUS, B.SC. (Est. Man.), A.R.I.C.S.
Public Librarian		M. J. DAVIES

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
to the
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL
for the year ending 31st December, 1953

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Pontypool Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Public Health Report on the sanitary circumstances prevailing in your district during 1953. This report has been prepared in conformity with Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and as directed in circular 1/54 (Wales) dated 12th January, 1954, of the Welsh Board of Health.

General Comment

The year 1953 was an uneventful one for the district from the aspect of notifiable infectious disease incidence, apart from the notification of 735 cases of measles, and the occurrence of an extensive outbreak of a staphylococcal toxin food poisoning involving many of the pupils and staff of the Abersychan Grammar and Technical Schools in their common canteen.

During the latter part of the year a very successful mass radiography survey was undertaken in the Abersychan Ward in addition to visits by a mobile unit to two factories in the urban district.

The deaths from tuberculosis reached the lowest known level for the district and a very considerable drop in notifications also occurred despite increased efforts at ascertainment through the agencies of mass radiography, skin testing in infant welfare clinics and schools and more adequate chest clinic facilities.

It is disturbing to note the increasing incidence of cancer of the lungs and bronchi and the unsatisfactory results of the treatment of this condition.

Physical Features

The Pontypool Urban District covers an area of 15,907 acres and is situated on the Eastern outcrop of the South Wales Coalfields. The coal mines in the district are some distance from the populated areas, being situated on the hillsides.

The altitude varies from 1,789 feet above sea level at Mynydd Varteg Fawr in the Abersychan Parish to 178.7 feet above sea level at the Sor, Cwmbwrrwch, in the Panteg Parish.

General Statistics and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of the population as at mid 1953 was 42,320. The 1951 census population was 42,683—21,260 males and 21,423 females.

The workers of the district are engaged in heavy industry such as coal mining, steel smelting, tin-plating, railway works, by-product plants and glass making. The main light industry in the district is the production of nylon yarn at a very extensive and modern factory which has been a great asset to the area.

The district is well served by rail and road transport even though situated in a valley.

The town possesses a beautiful natural park with many facilities for sport. The provision of an all-weather swimming pool would greatly add to the facilities already available in the park and cater for the many swimmers from the district who have at present to travel to the baths at Newport. It is noted that purification plant is to be installed at the present open air baths at Pontnewynydd and Panteg.

Estimated population (mid 1953) of Adjacent Urban Districts and Municipal Boroughs

Abergavenny	M.B.	9,070	Abercarn	..	U.D.	18,460	
Abertillery	..	U.D.	27,150	Bedwellty	..	U.D.	28,480
Blaenavon	..	U.D.	9,589	Cwmbran	..	U.D.	14,410
Ebbw Vale	..	U.D.	28,520	Monmouth	..	M.B.	5,738
			Tredegar	..	U.D.	20,420	

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

TABLE I Showing the yearly number of live births, estimated mid-year population and birth rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1946.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of live births	683	699	697	743	740	744	816	786
Estimated mid-year population	42,320	42,420	42,460	42,850	42,650	42,360	42,160	42,080
Birth rate per 1,000 population	16.1	16.5	16.4	17.3	17.4	17.6	19.8	18.1

The allocated number of births for this district for 1953 was 683, comprising 341 males and 342 females. These included 17 (9 males and 8 females) illegitimate births.

The natural increase (i.e. excess of births over deaths) for the year was 217 as compared with 192 for 1952 and 129 for 1951.

There was a decrease of 16 births as compared with the previous year.

There were 13 (4 males and 9 females) stillbirths during the year, one being of illegitimate birth. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1953 was 0.35 per 1,000 population as compared with a rate of 0.47 for the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and 0.31 for the Pontypool Urban District.

Comparative birth rates, etc., are given in table X.

The local birth rate is comparable with that for England and Wales if the local rate is multiplied by the comparability factor for births given by the General Register Office, which is 1.04.

TABLE II Showing the births registered in and allocated to this district for 1953 according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable births.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly Births
January	21	17	38	} 123
February	19	23	42	
March	20	23	43	
April	20	24	44	} 109
May	17	16	33	
June	18	14	32	
July	19	27	46	} 123
August	18	18	36	
September	21	20	41	
October	23	17	40	} 107
November	18	18	36	
December	17	14	31	
TOTALS	231	231	462	462
Inward transferable births	110	111	221	
GRAND TOTALS for the year 1953	341	342	683	

Comparative Birth Rates — 1953

Pontypool Urban District	16.1
Monmouthshire Administrative County ..	16.8
England and Wales	15.5

TABLE III Showing the yearly number of deaths, estimated mid-year population, and the death rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1946.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of deaths	466	507	568	510	531	478	527	547
Estimated mid-year population	42,320	42,420	42,460	42,850	42,650	42,360	42,160	42,080
Death-rate per 1,000 population	11.0	12.0	13.4	11.9	12.5	11.3	12.5	12.9

The deaths allocated to the district for 1953 numbered 466, comprising 249 males and 217 females. This figure shows a decrease of 41 deaths as compared with 1952.

The allocation of these 466 deaths to their various causes is shown in table IV.

There was one death assigned to maternal causes to give a maternal mortality rate of 1.43 per 1,000 total births (live and still) as compared with a rate of 1.09 for the Administrative County of Monmouthshire.

Tuberculosis (all forms) claimed 6 deaths (3 males and 3 females). Pulmonary tuberculosis claimed 5 deaths (2 males and 3 females) and non-pulmonary tuberculosis claimed one death (a male). Tuberculosis (all forms) claimed 1.3% of the total deaths for the year.

Cancer claimed 100 deaths (50 males and 50 females) during the year. This represents 21.5% of the total deaths for the year. Cancer of the lungs and bronchi caused 17 deaths (15 males and 2 females) or 3.7% of the total deaths for the year.

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels caused 200 deaths (98 males and 102 females) or 42.9% of the total deaths.

Motor vehicle accidents claimed one female death. All other accidents claimed 13 deaths (7 males and 6 females).

There were 3 male suicides during the year.

The local death rate is comparable with that for England and Wales if the product of the local rate with the comparability factor of 1.06 is taken.

TABLE IV Shewing the deaths from all causes, infant deaths, births and stillbirths allocated to this district for 1953.

Causes of death				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	2	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	2	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	9	12
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	15	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	—	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	—	6
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	25	19
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	..	..	1	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	20	32
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	44	15
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	2	1
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	24	45
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	8	9
22.	Influenza	..	..	—	4
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	7	2
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	33	13
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	6	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	5	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	..	..	4	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	4	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	23	28
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	—	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	7	6
35.	Suicide	..	..	3	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES				249	217
Deaths in infants under 1 year of age :—					
	Legitimate	..	..	16	7
	Illegitimate	..	..	—	—
	Total	..	..	16	7
Total births				341	342
	Legitimate	..	..	332	334
	Illegitimate	..	..	9	8
Still births—Total				4	9
	Legitimate	..	..	4	8
	Illegitimate	..	..	—	1

Estimated population - mid 1953 = 42,320
(for calculation of birth and death rates).

Comparability factors : Births Deaths

1.04

1.06

TABLE V Showing the deaths registered in and assigned to the Pontypool Urban District for 1953, according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable deaths.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly deaths
January	26	17	43	141
February	28	27	55	
March	20	23	43	
April	10	20	30	85
May	18	9	27	
June	14	14	28	
July	23	8	31	91
August	20	16	36	
September ..	13	11	24	
October	10	12	22	71
November	11	11	22	
December	11	16	27	
TOTALS	204	184	388	388
Inward transferable deaths	45	33	78	
GRAND TOTAL for the year 1953	249	217	466	

Comparative Death Rates — 1953

Pontypool Urban District	11.0
Monmouthshire Administrative County ..	11.6
England and Wales	11.4

INFANT MORTALITY

TABLE VI Showing the yearly number of infant deaths, live births, etc., for this district since 1946.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year	23	19	30	32	28	26	34	33
Number of live births	683	699	697	743	740	744	816	788
Infant mortality rate	33·7	27·2	43·0	43·1	37·8	34·9	41·7	41·9

The infant deaths for 1953 numbered 23, comprising 16 males and 7 females. The deaths of 18 of these 23 infants occurred in hospitals. All the infants were of legitimate birth. It will be noted that 15 out of the 23 deaths occurred in infants under the age of 4 weeks and that 13 deaths out of these 15 deaths occurred in infants under the age of one week. The greatest single cause of death was prematurity at birth. The figure of 23 does not compare unfavourably with the average of 27 over the previous five years.

The infant mortality rate for the Administrative County of Monmouthshire was 32·6 per 1,000 live births as compared with a rate of 33·7 for the Pontypool Urban District.

The infant deaths are allocated to their causes in Table VII.

TABLE VII Showing the infant deaths (i.e. deaths in infants under one year of age) assigned to this district for 1953, by cause and in age groups.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	11	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	11
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ..	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Broncho-pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	4
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Acute Bronchitis.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Meningocele	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Accidental Overlaying ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
ALL CAUSES	13	2	—	—	15	1	3	4	—	23

All the above infant deaths took place in hospital with the exception of two deaths due to gastro-enteritis, two due to broncho-pneumonia and the one due to accidental overlaying.

TABLE VIII Showing the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, the County Boroughs and Great Towns, the smaller towns, the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and Pontypool Urban District for 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

YEAR	England and Wales	160 Co. Boro's. & Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller towns (resident pop'n 25 to 50 thousand at 1951 census)	Admin- trative County of Monmouth- shire	Pontypool Urban District
1949	32.0	37.0	30.0	42.7	37.8
1950	29.8	33.8	29.4	39.8	43.1
1951	29.6	33.9	27.6	43.1	43.0
1952	27.6	31.2	25.8	33.9	27.2
1953	26.8	30.8	24.3	32.6	33.7

TABLE IX Showing the number of inquests during 1953 on persons belonging to this district, and the circumstances of the deaths.

Circumstances of death	Males	Females	TOTAL
Accidents on railways (employees) ..	2	—	2
Accidents on the roads (pedestrians) ..	—	1	1
Accidental falls in the home contributing to subsequent death	—	4	4
Accidental drowning	1	1	2
Accidents at play	1	—	1
Accidents at work	1	—	1
Accidents underground	1	—	1
Suicides	3	—	3
Post-operative shock	1	1	2
Coronary disease of the heart ..	3	—	3
Pneumoconiosis and tuberculosis ..	1	—	1
Phenobarbitone poisoning (misadventure) ..	—	1	1
Silicosis with pneumonia	1	—	1
Overlaying	1	—	1
TOTAL ..	16	8	24

Deaths on the roads numbered 1 (female aged 67 years) as compared with 4 during 1952 and 3 during 1951.

Falls in the home occasioned the deaths of 4 females (aged 81, 60, 78 and 85 years).

There were 3 suicides during the year, all males.

TABLE X Comparison of the vital statistics for England and Wales, etc., the Administrative County of Monmouthshire, Blaenavon Urban District and Pontypool Urban District for the years 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

	Birth rates per 1,000 population								Deaths per 1,000 population				Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)			
	Live births	Still births	Live births	Still births	Live births	Still births	Live births	Still births	1953	1952	1951	1950	1953	1952	1951	1950
	1953	1953	1952	1952	1952	1952	1951	1951	1951	1950	1950	1950	1950	1950	1950	1950
England and Wales	15.5	0.35	15.3	0.35			15.5			11.4	11.3	12.5	11.6	26.8	29.6	29.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ..	17.0	0.43	16.9	0.43			17.3			12.2	12.1	13.4	12.3	30.8	33.9	33.8
160 smaller Towns (resident population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 census)	15.7	0.34	15.5	0.36			16.7			11.3	11.2	12.5	11.6	24.3	27.6	29.4
London Administrative Co.	17.5	0.38	17.6	0.34			17.8			12.5	12.6	13.1	11.8	24.8	26.4	26.3
Administrative County of Monmouthshire	16.8	0.47	17.2	0.47			16.5			11.6	11.5	13.4	12.3	32.7	33.9	39.8
Blaenavon Urban District	14.3	0.21	13.4	0.31			12.7			13.5	14.2	12.9	14.4	36.5	48.8	13.3
Pontypool Urban District	16.1	0.31	16.5	0.59			16.4			11.0	12.0	13.4	11.9	33.7	43.0	43.1

ZYMOTIC DISEASES

The notifiable diseases which were notified during 1953 in the Urban District by general practitioners and hospital medical staff are analysed in age and sex groups in table XI.

DIPHTHERIA

There was no notification of this disease during the year.

Protective immunisation against diphtheria is available through the Infant Welfare Clinics and general practitioners in the district. Reinforcing injections are offered to all entrants to the schools in the Council's area and are availed of widely. These school sessions continue to be organised and conducted by the Area Medical Officer.

The number of anti-diphtheria immunisations done in the Council's district during 1953 are as follows:—

	Age at date of primary injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B)							Total
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	
A. No. of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Council's district during the year ended 31.12.'53 ..	189	164	33	11	26	89	—	512
B. No. of children who received a second- ary (reinforcing) dose subsequent to primary immunis- ation in the year ended 31.12.'53 ..	—	—	—	—	88	189	2	279

The maintenance of a high level of immunisation cannot but be adversely affected by the cessation of injections during several months of each year by local health authorities when there is an increased prevalence of poliomyelitis.

TABLE XI Showing the infectious and other notifiable diseases notified in this district during 1953, analysed in age and sex groups and giving the admissions to hospital. (Tuberculosis excluded).

DISEASE	Under 1 year		1-2 years		2-3 years		3-4 years		4-5 years		5-10 years		10-15 years		15-20 years		20-35 years		35-45 years		45-65 years		65 yrs and upwards		ALL AGES			Cases Admitted to Hospital	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	T.		
Diphtheria ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles ..	15	16	87	91	66	48	67	48	75	72	70	71	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	385	350	735	-	
Scarlet fever ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	10	-	
Whooping cough ..	1	2	4	5	3	5	3	5	3	4	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	29	50	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	
Ac. primary and Influenzal pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	6	-	
Erysipelas ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	
Food Poisoning ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis :	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	16	18	91	96	69	53	70	55	78	76	78	85	7	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	-	3	415	396	811	3	-

TABLE XII Showing the number of cases of notifiable disease notified yearly since 1945.

DISEASE	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Diphtheria	—	1	1	1	3	—	3	4	5
Measles	735	110	1,351	18	115	275	214	3	601
Scarlet Fever	10	61	56	59	88	38	32	29	60
Whooping Cough	50	184	55	180	36	39	24	59	32
Puerperal pyrexia	2	—	1	3	3	2	—	3	3
Ac. primary and influenzal pneumonia	6	5	15	11	3	3	6	3	13
Erysipelas	4	2	3	3	5	3	1	3	2
Food poisoning	3	3	1	8	5	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	2	2
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Paratyphoid	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis: (a) Paralytic	—	8	—	2	1	—	3	2	—
(b) Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SCARLET FEVER

There were 10 notifications (3 males and 7 females) as compared with 61 (31 males and 30 females) during 1952.

Only two cases were hospitalised during the year due to peculiar home circumstances.

No deaths were recorded from this cause during the year.

MEASLES

This could be considered an epidemic year for measles and there were 735 notifications (385 males and 350 females) as compared with 110 notifications (63 males and 47 females) for 1952.

There were no deaths recorded from measles during the year.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 50 notifications (21 males and 29 females) during the year as compared with 184 notifications (95 males and 89 females) during the year 1952.

There were no deaths from this cause recorded for 1953.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

There were 2 notifications of puerperal pyrexia during the year.

ACUTE PRIMARY PNEUMONIA

There were 6 notifications (3 males and 3 females) during the year as compared with 3 notifications (2 males and 1 female) for 1952.

ERYSIPELAS

There were 4 notifications – all females. No deaths were assigned to this cause.

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS

There was one notification of this condition during the year.

FOOD POISONING

There were 3 notifications of food poisoning during the year but those three cases were the only ones to be formally notified from an extensive staphylococcal toxin food poisoning incident which on investigation showed that at least 118 persons were affected.

This outbreak will be reported on in detail as it shows the value of getting the investigation going while some of the suspected food is available for analysis. Samples of the offending food were fortunately recovered for bacteriological analysis and the source of infection was successfully proved to have, in all probability, come from the nose of an associated food handler. The great value of bacteriophage typing of bacteria grown from samples of suspected food, etc., is also demonstrated in identifying the source of infection.

Food poisoning outbreak at Abersychan Grammar and Technical Schools (served by a common canteen), Pontypool, Mon., on 5.10.'53.

(1) (a) Food causing outbreak.

Bacon brawn prepared in the school canteen on Friday, 2.10.'53, and served for lunch on Monday, 5.10.'53. The lunch consisted of bacon; brawn; potatoes; tinned beans; custard tart.

(b) Agent causing outbreak.

Coagulase – positive staphylococcus aureus which was grown in large numbers from samples of the suspected brawn by the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, Mon.

(2) Cases forming the outbreak which occurred in the late afternoon and evening of 5.10.'53.

Total notified: 3 Pontypool U.D. 2 Blaenavon U.D.

		Total ascertained		
		Pupils	Teaching Staff	Fatal Cases
Abersychan Grammar School ..		33	7	
Abersychan Technical School ..		65	9	NIL
Common School Canteen Staff		4 adult females		
		Pupils	Teaching Staff	Canteen Staff
Total ascertained ..	..	98	16	4
		= Grand total of 118.		

(3) **Clinical features.** Average interval from ingestion to onset in hours = $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

The main symptoms were nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal discomfort with varying degrees of collapse. Many of those affected became ill about 3 p.m. on 5.10.'53, while others sickened on the way home or on arriving home. The severity of the illness varied from a feeling of nausea to the exhibition of vomiting, diarrhoea and collapse. A few needed to be taken home. At the technical school 39 pupils and 4 teachers were ill on the afternoon of 5.10.'53, while 26 pupils and 5 teachers sickened later in the evening and were absent from school on 6.10.'53. At the Grammar school 9 of the 33 pupils affected were absent on 6.10.'53, while 5 of the 7 teaching staff were absent on 6.10.'53. It will be noted that the lunch was served in two sittings between 12.15 hours and 01.15 hours, with a break of 15 mins. between sittings. The illness generally varied from mild upset to moderate severity. The duration of the illness (as ascertained from those affected) varied from a few hours to 12 hours.

(4) **Results of laboratory investigation.**

Food samples.

- (1) Remainder of bacon brawn used on 5.10.'53 gave a heavy growth of staphylococcus aureus with a scanty growth of coliform bacteria, aerobic spore-bearing organisms and staphylococcus albus.
- (2) Fat from brawn used on 5.10.'53 gave a moderate mixed growth of staphylococcus albus and aureus.
- (3) Beans in tomato sauce gave a sterile culture (aerobic and anaerobic).
- (4) Custard powder gave a scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearing organisms.
- (5) Remainder of pastry from custard tart used on 5.10.'53, gave a scanty growth of achromo-bacteria on culture.

Food handlers.

The kitchen staff of seven were interviewed and none exhibited any sores on the hands, arms or face and none had been recently ill. Four were affected after eating the brawn on 5.10.'53, two were unable to go to work on 6.10.'53, and two were mildly affected. Stool specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination from all the kitchen staff and culture revealed no organisms of the enteric, salmonella or dysentery groups. One nasal swab gave a growth of staphylococcus aureus (coagulase-positive) which was of the same phage pattern as the staphylococcus isolated from the brawn.

Others affected.

Stool cultures from 5 of the affected teaching staff were negative for organisms of the salmonella, dysentery or typhoid groups.

(5) Origin and preparation of the food causing illness.

The bacon was supplied to the school canteen on Friday, 25.9.'53, and sliced up and made into brawn on Friday, 2.10.'53. The brawn was stored in chinaware bowls in an ordinary meat safe with a perforated zinc door until it was taken out for use at lunch on Monday, 5.10.'53. This meat safe was kept in a small room off the kitchen which was also used as the cook's office and for storage of items of food stuff.

(6) Place at which food causing illness was consumed.

The canteen common to the Abersychan Grammar and Technical schools. The meal was the lunch served between 12.15 and 1.15 p.m. on 5.10.'53.

Estimated numbers at risk, etc.

ABERSYCHAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL:—				Pupils	Teaching Staff
No. on register	..	..	..	383	18
No. at risk on 5.10.'53	..	..	..	169	12
No. affected	..	..	..	33	7

ABERSYCHAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL:—

No. on register	..	..	..	211	16
No. at risk on 5.10.'53	..	..	..	145	14
No. affected	..	..	..	65	9

CANTEEN STAFF = 7 adult females

No. at risk on 5.10.'53 .. 6

No. affected 4

	Pupils	Teaching Staff
Total at risk in both schools ..	314	26
Total affected in both schools ..	98	16
Canteen Staff at risk =	6	
Canteen Staff affected =	4	
Grand total at risk =	346	
Grand total affected =	118	

Of those affected, the following lived in the Pontypool U.D. and the remainder in other districts.

Teaching Staff	=	9
Pupils	=	63
Kitchen Staff	=	4
		—
TOTAL		76
		—

The remainder, 7 teaching staff and 35 pupils lived in outside districts and the Medical Officers of Health of these areas were notified of the relevant facts.

Analysis of those affected in age and sex groups.

ABERSYCHAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL:— PUPILS.

MALES		FEMALES	
Age group in years	Number affected	Age group in years	Number affected
11—	3	11—	4
12—	2	12—	2
13—	2	13—	1
14—	1	14—	—
15—	1	15—	5
16—	7	16—	—
17—	3	17+	2
	—		—
	19		14
	—		—

TEACHERS.

MALES		FEMALES	
Age in years	Number affected	Age in years	Number affected
30	1	40	1
36	1	42	1
42	1		
44	1		
49	1		
	—		—
	5		2
	—		—

ABERSYCHAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL:—

PUPILS (all males)		TEACHING STAFF (all males)	
Age group in years	Number affected	Age in years	Number affected
12—	4	27	1
13—	26	41	2
14—	24	42	1
15—	8	44	1
16—	3	46	1
		48	1
		52	1
		56	1
	—		—
	65		9
	—		—

CANTEEN STAFF:—

Age in years	No. affected
35	1
39	1
46	1
57	1
	—
	4
	—

(7) Probable origin of infection or contamination of food.

The most likely origin of infection in this outbreak became immediately obvious on inspection of the school canteen and finding an absence of a refrigerator for meat storage, especially pre-cooked meat items which were later to be served cold.

The canteen building itself was an old wooden hut, the centre portion (60ft. x 20ft.) of which was used as a dining hall during lunch hour and as a classroom for the remainder of the school day. On one end of the hut was a rather cramped storeroom and adjacent to it was a similarly-sized room serving as the Cook's Office and also used for storage. It was noted that the canteen helpers coats were left in this office for want of other accommodation. The meat safe in use was a wooden one with a perforated zinc door and was placed in Cook's office.

The kitchen (40ft. x 12ft.) was situated between the Cook's office and the dining hall and had washing-up sinks in addition to gas-cooking arrangements. The working conditions in the kitchen were rather cramped. Food preparation was done in the kitchen. The helpers did their handwashing in the kitchen sinks. The swill bins were placed immediately outside the kitchen door and none appeared to have a properly fitting lid. The cleanliness of the kitchen and store was satisfactory. At the other end of the dining hall there was a small room with a sink and steriliser used for washing up utensils in addition to the sinks in the kitchen.

It was ascertained from the Cook that up to 390 lunches were served in this canteen daily in two sittings between 12.15 p.m. and 1.15 p.m., with a break of 15 minutes between sittings. Owing to the shortage of cutlery and crockery it appeared that all the cutlery and some of the crockery used at the first sitting had to be hurriedly washed during the 15 minute interval for use at the second sitting.

The general impression formed was that this canteen building was unsatisfactory and did not give the cook or her helpers a fair chance, taking into account the cramped working conditions, the poor general storage facilities, the lack of refrigeration for such items as cooked meats which were held over to be used cold the next day and the large number of meals served daily.

It is noted that the routine in this canteen was to cook meat on one day and use it the following day. The offending bacon brawn in this instance was cooked on a Friday and stored in an ordinary meat safe under warm atmospheric conditions in a room adjacent to a warm kitchen before being consumed on the following Monday.

Conclusion.

This extensive food poisoning outbreak, which was fortunately generally of mild severity, can be wholly attributed to a bacon brawn which was cooked some days before consumption and in the interval stored under conditions which were very conducive to the rapid multiplication of a coagulase-positive staphylococcus aureus probably introduced to the brawn after cooking from the hands of one of the canteen staff.

The bacteriophage pattern of the staphylococcus aureus isolated from the bacon was, 42E/6/7/47/53/54/75+, while the pattern of the staphylococcus aureus isolated from the nose of one of the canteen staff was, 6/7/47/53/54/75+. These bacteriophage patterns can be considered identical.

This outbreak was due to a toxin-forming organism which in all probability originated in the nose of a food handler and led to an extensive outbreak of food poisoning because of a lapse from the normal standards of hygiene expected from careful kitchen staff.

There were no notifications of diphtheria, meningococcal infections, typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, ophthalmia neonatorum, poliomyelitis or smallpox.

The number of persons vaccinated against smallpox in the district during 1953 was as follows:—

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15+ yrs.	Total
No. vaccinated	225	19	33	26	24	327
No. revaccinated	—	—	2	4	25	31

Those vaccinated for the first time in the 15+ age group and all of those revaccinated (31) were persons going overseas who required an international certificate of vaccination.

TUBERCULOSIS

This Urban District has a chest clinic provided at the Park Buildings and whole-day sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday of each week. New and old cases are seen on Tuesdays and contacts are seen on Thursdays for x-raying and skin testing.

All the homes of the newly notified cases were visited by the Medical Officer of Health and a comprehensive environmental report was made to the Chest Physician and the County Medical Officer of Health in each instance. In three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis representation was made to the Local Housing Authority for priority in rehousing on account of overcrowding or other unsatisfactory circumstances in the home.

There was a very good attendance at the chest clinic of household contacts of the newly notified cases during the year.

A supply of disinfectant continued to be available from the Public Health Department for use in the homes of tuberculous patients in sputum receptacles and in connection with infected laundry.

Disinfections were carried out as required in the houses of tuberculous patients.

Facilities continued to be available at all the Infant Welfare Clinics in the district for skin testing to be carried out with parents' consent on children up to the age of 5 years. This is a valuable means of case finding and it is encouraging to find so few children under 5 years who are positive reactors in this district. This facility was first offered in the clinics two years ago and parents have readily accepted the procedure as they have already come to accept the advisability of immunisation against diphtheria.

The mass radiography service carried out an extensive general population survey in the selected area of the Abersychan central electoral division and also visited the factories of Messrs. British Nylon Spinners, Ltd., and Messrs. H. G. Stone, Ltd., during the year.

The surveys at the two factories in the district resulted in 3,026 persons being x-rayed, and resulted in a total of 168 persons being found abnormal—18 requiring further investigation for pulmonary tuberculosis and 150 having other abnormalities of the chest. It is impossible to say how many of these persons resided within this district as both of these industrial concerns draw their labour force from a wide area. However, one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in a resident of this district as a direct result of these surveys.

The survey of the central electoral division of the Abersychan area was an ambitious effort to x-ray as near 100% as possible of roughly a 5,500 population.

An initial campaign of propaganda was carried on through the local press, local organisations, district nurses, health visitors and general practitioners. Just prior to the commencement of the survey a house-to-house canvass was made by personnel of the mass radiography unit to ascertain the number of persons and their ages in each household on a certain day. At the time of this visit a programme of the x-ray sessions, together with a letter of encouragement from the Medical Director of the Mass Radiography service was left at each home. As the survey proceeded the names of those coming forward for x-ray were checked off against the census list and further visits were then made to the homes to try to encourage those who had not already come forward for x-ray to attend. Many of the homes were revisited on several occasions.

This survey also entailed mantoux testing of the children in the prescribed area, but this work had not been completed by the end of the year. The final figures for this survey are not yet available from the mass radiography service and will have to be included in next year's annual report.

TABLE XIII Showing the new cases of tuberculosis notified and the deaths due to tuberculosis during 1953, analysed in age and sex groups and by type of disease.

Age groups in yrs.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15—25	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	—
25—35	1	2	—	1	2	1	—	—
35—45	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
65 +	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	12	6	2	3	2	3	1	—

Five of the above new notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis (4 males and 1 female) came to be ascertained as a result of mass x-ray surveys in factories, schools and general population surveys in the district during 1953.

Two of the above male cases of pulmonary tuberculosis had died before the end of the year—one from tuberculosis and the second from a cause other than tuberculosis.

The 12 male cases of pulmonary tuberculosis showed 6 with a positive sputum at the time of notification. There was one positive sputum in the 6 female cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified.

The death rates from tuberculosis for this district for 1952 were :
(Rates for 1953 are in parentheses)

- (a) Tuberculosis (all forms) — 0·14 per 1,000 pop. (0·31)
- (b) Pulmonary tuberculosis — 0·12 per 1,000 pop. (0·21)
- (c) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis — 0·02 per 1,000 pop. (0·09)

TABLE XIV Showing the number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the register at 31.12.'53.

Males		Females		TOTAL
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
162	28	114	32	336

TABLE XV Showing the monthly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for the year 1953.

Month of year	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
January	2	1	—	—	3
February	—	—	—	—	—
March	1	1	1	1	4
April	—	2	—	—	2
May	1	—	—	1	2
June	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—
August	1	1	—	—	2
September	—	—	—	—	—
October	2	—	—	1	3
November	3	—	1	—	4
December	2	1	—	—	3
TOTAL ..	12	6	2	3	23

In addition to the above the following inward transfers took place during the year of persons already notified for the first time in other districts.

Males – Pulmonary
2

Females – Pulmonary
1

The death returns of the local registrar of births and deaths revealed one person on whose death certificate there was a mention of tuberculosis which had not been formally notified during life. This was a female aged 61 years in whom it is understood a diagnosis of inoperable new growth of the lung had previously been made by the local chest clinic.

TABLE XVI Showing the occupations of the cases of tuberculosis notified during 1953. These occupations are not necessarily those followed when the disease was contracted.

Occupation	Males		Females		TOTAL
	Pulmon-ary	Non-Pulmon-ary	Pulmon-ary	Non-Pulmon-ary	
School	—	—	1	—	1
Factory Worker ..	4	—	1	—	5
Housewife. . .	—	—	2	3	5
Steelworker ..	1	1	—	—	2
Ex-Collier ..	1	—	—	—	1
Student nurse ..	—	—	1	—	1
Hospital Wardsister ..	—	—	1	—	1
Clerk	1	—	—	—	1
Labourer	1	—	—	—	1
Pre-school ..	1	—	—	—	1
Greengrocer ..	—	1	—	—	1
Warehouseman ..	1	—	—	—	1
Collier	2	—	—	—	2
TOTAL ..	12	2	6	3	23

TABLE XVII Showing the new notifications of all forms of tuberculosis as distributed to the various wards for 1953.

Wards	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Garndiffaith ..	4	—	—	1	5
Abersychan ..	1	2	—	1	4
Pontnewynydd ..	2	3	—	—	5
Wainfelin ..	2	—	—	1	3
Pontypool ..	1	—	—	—	1
Pontymoel ..	1	—	—	—	1
Griffithstown ..	—	—	1	—	1
New Inn and Sebastopol ..	1	1	1	—	3
ALL WARDS ..	12	6	2	3	23

The Garndiffaith, Pontnewynydd and Abersychan Wards provided the bulk of the cases during the year.

TABLE XVIII Showing the admissions and discharges to institutions for treatment of tuberculosis during 1953.

Institutions	Admissions		Discharges	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Cefn Mably Sanatorium ..	4	3	7	10
Sully Hospital ..	7	5	7	2
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth	3	—	7	—
North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh	—	2	—	2
Chepstow Annexe ..	6	—	9	—
Cardiff Isolation Hospital ..	1	—	1	—
Glan Ely Hospital ..	3	—	3	—
Davos Sanatorium, Switzerland	1	1	—	—
Energlyn Hospital ..	—	—	—	2
Cotswold Sanatorium ..	—	1	—	1
St. Woolos Hospital ..	—	2	2	—
TOTAL	25	14	36	17

TABLE XIX Showing the notification rates and death rates for tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated mid-year population since 1938.

Year	Notification rates per 1,000 population		Death rates per 1,000 population	
	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
1938	1·09	·42	·52	·07
1939	1·15	·49	·42	·07
1940	·84	·48	·58	·12
1941	1·13	·41	·74	·05
1942	·67	·36	·41	·19
1943	·99	·22	·49	·10
1944	1·34	·26	·55	·07
1945	1·88	·19	·67	·12
1946	·76	·33	·48	·10
1947	·93	·33	·45	·05
1948	1·01	·33	·50	·09
1949	·73	·16	·56	·05
1950	·84	·12	·19	·04
1951	·92	·18	·26	·02
1952	·90	·17	·21	·09
1953	·42	·12	·12	·02

TABLE XX Showing the yearly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for males and females, and the yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis since 1942.

Year	Yearly notifications of tuberculosis				Total yearly notifications of pulmonary & non-pulmonary tuberculosis	Yearly deaths from tuberculosis				Total of yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1942	21	7	9	6	43	7	10	4	4	25
1943	26	15	4	5	50	12	8	3	1	24
1944	27	29	3	8	67	14	9	2	1	26
1945	46	22	2	6	76	10	18	3	2	33
1946	19	13	11	3	46	12	8	2	2	24
1947	16	23	5	9	53	9	10	1	1	21
1948	21	22	4	10	57	16	5	3	1	25
1949	14	17	1	3	38	16	6	1	1	24
1950	19	17	1	4	41	6	2	1	1	10
1951	24	15	1	7	47	9	2	—	1	12
1952	25	13	5	2	45	5	4	3	1	13
1953	12	6	2	3	23	2	3	1	—	6

MISCELLANEOUS

Swimming Baths

The question of installing filtration plant at the Pontnewynydd and Panteg baths is under consideration and the work is likely to be effected during the coming year.

Public Conveniences

As stated in my previous annual report the Authority might well turn its attention to the outlying areas of the district where the public conveniences are both inadequate and in poor repair. The reference in my report for 1952 to the inadequacy of the sanitary arrangements in the Pontypool Park still apertains, since no improvements have been made during the past year.

Collection and disposal of household and trade refuse

The uncontrolled tipping at the Race has been discontinued but has been continued elsewhere. Controlled tipping is taking place at Garndiffaith.

Sewerage

The subsidiary sewers in the Pontypool area are likely to begin during the coming year, and it is hoped that all sewage will be diverted into the trunk sewer from the Afon Llwyd in the near future.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No cases arose during the year which were considered suitable for action under Section 47 of the above act.

Superannuation Act, 1937

Medical Examinations were carried out on 20 employees of the Authority for superannuation purposes.

Attendance at Conferences during 1953

The Medical Officer of Health was not delegated to attend any conference or sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute during 1953.

Water Supply

The Statutory Water Undertakers are the Pontypool Gas and Water Company (Water Undertaking). The supply is a treated one.

The number of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, during the year was 84. Of the 84 samples submitted, 81 were reported on as satisfactory for a chlorinated supply and 3 were not quite up to the required standard.

The bacteriological condition of the piped water supply to the district during the year was very satisfactory. The supply was also adequate.

Sampling from shallow wells

Two samples of water taken from shallow wells were found to be not quite satisfactory and the users were advised to boil same for domestic use as a precautionary measure.

Pantygasseg village water supply

The laying of a piped water supply to this outlying area was put into operation during the year and the main pipe line completed, leaving only the connection to the houses to be effected.

FOOD INSPECTION, ETC.

Ice Cream Sampling

During the year particular attention continued to be shown towards manufacturers of ice cream in the district. One large manufacturer in the district ceased to operate during the year. The conditions in these premises were found to be satisfactory in all cases.

The results of 53 samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological examination were placed in the following provisional grades.

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
31	17	Nil	5

The results are considered very satisfactory.

Three samples were submitted to the Public Analyst in respect of fat content and all were reported on as being satisfactory.

Meat

There is a slaughterhouse at Abersychan which is operated by the Ministry of Food. All meat inspection at these premises is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors, who are all qualified meat inspectors. At the close of the year all condemned meat from this slaughterhouse was being sold to Messrs. J. H. Fairclough, Ltd., Waste Produce Merchants, Newport, Mon. Inedible materials other than condemned meat are consigned to British Glues & Chemicals Ltd., Newport, Mon.

Other condemned foods are disposed of at the Council's destructor.

Milk

There are two pasteurising plants in the district and in all there are 15 dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies regulations, 1949. There were 122 samples (62 pasteurised, 35 T.T. pasteurised and 25 sterilised) of heat-treated milk taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, and, with few exceptions, the results were satisfactory. There were 36 samples of milk submitted to the Public Analyst during the year for analysis under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, in respect of fat content. All these samples proved satisfactory.

Samples (12) of raw milk coming into one of the pasteurising plants in the district were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport. These were found to be generally unsatisfactory and the area milk officer and the public health authority of the districts involved were informed.

Twelve samples of churn rinsings were taken at the two pasteurising plants and the results showed that cleansing was efficiently done.

Samples taken under Food and Drugs Act, 1938

There were 150 samples of various items of food (including beer samples for possible lead contamination) submitted to the Public Analyst during the year and all were reported on as being satisfactory. Three samples of iced lollies submitted to the Public Analyst were reported on as free from metallic contamination.

Inspection of food shops, cafes, etc.

Every food shop in the district was visited during the year and repeated visits were made to cafes, industrial canteens, fried fish shops, registered dairies and premises registered under Section 14

of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. A personal letter from the Medical Officer of Health was sent to every food handler on these premises reminding them of the importance of a high standard of personal hygiene in their work and the important part they played in the prevention of food poisoning. In conjunction with this letter was sent one of the Central Council of Health Education leaflets entitled, "the customer's health is in your hands." The public health department's inspectors continued to advise and impress on management and employees in the food trades the need for a high standard of food hygiene during their visits throughout the year. It has been the experience that managements are only too keen to accept advice which will in any way improve food hygiene in their premises.

During the year a number of swabbings were taken from items of cutlery and crockery in cafes and industrial canteens and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological examination. The results, with very few exceptions, showed that the methods of washing were very satisfactory. Detergents are now widely used and help very much in obtaining clean cutlery and crockery if used in the prescribed concentrations.

Towards the end of the year a supply of the new coloured wallsheet on the prevention of food poisoning produced by the Ministry of Health and the Central Office of information became available and a copy was placed in practically all the cafes and industrial canteen kitchens in the district. This wallsheet showed some of the more usual ways in which food can become contaminated through faulty "hand-hygiene," e.g. uncovered cuts, sores or dirty bandages, germs conveyed from nose or mouth and by hands contaminated after using the W.C. The positive habits of good hygiene were also stressed on this wallsheet, which was one of the best of its kind so far produced, and gave a simple message which could be easily understood by all.

Classification of premises by type in the district

Cafes and hotels	15
Canteens (industrial)	12
Fish and Chip Saloons	16
Registered ice cream manufacturers	7
Premises registered under Section 14, of the Foods & Drugs Act, 1938	16
Butchers' shops	25
Grocery and Greengrocery	91
Greengrocery and Fish	16
Registered dairies	15
Shops registered for the sale of ice cream (including the seven manufacturers)	44

There were 364 inspections made of food shops in the area during the year.

There were 85 inspections of registered premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold during the year.

There were 64 inspections of premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, pies, etc., during the year.

All items of food which were condemned and surrendered were disposed of at the Council's destructor. Condemned meat and offal from the Slaughterhouse was disposed of by the Ministry of Food to a contractor at Newport. All fresh meat condemned in butchers' shops in the district was returned to the slaughterhouse for disposal by the Ministry of Food. All condemned rationed foods over 28 lbs. in weight were returned to the wholesalers.

Premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

There are 60 premises registered under Section 14 and comprise 44 registered in connection with the ice cream trade and 16 in connection with the manufacture of sausages and cooked meats.

Court proceedings in respect of unsound food during 1953

- (a) Proceedings were taken against a milk retailer for selling a bottle of pasteurised milk which contained fragments of broken glass. The retailer in turn held that the Wholesale Dairy Company supplying him was responsible. The proceedings were taken under Section 9 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. The case succeeded and the Dairy Company was fined £10 and £8 8 0 costs.
- (b) Proceedings were taken against the same Dairy Company as in (a) for supplying to a customer a bottle of pasteurised milk without ensuring that the bottle was in a proper state of cleanliness. The proceedings were taken under Section 26 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. The case succeeded and the Dairy was fined £5.
- (c) Proceedings were taken against a retailer for selling to a customer a bottle of sterilised milk in a bottle which had not been properly cleansed before use. The retailer in turn held that the Dairy Company supplying him with the milk was the person actually responsible. However, owing to a legal technicality the retailer failed to prove his case against the Dairy Company and he was fined £2, since the case against him had been proved by the Local Authority. The case was taken under Section 26 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

- (d) Proceedings were taken against a Dairy Company for supplying a customer with a bottle of pasteurised milk without ensuring that the bottle had been properly cleansed before use. The case succeeded and the Dairy Company was fined £10. Proceedings were taken under Section 26 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.
- (e) Proceedings were taken against a shopkeeper for supplying a loaf of bread to a customer which contained what appeared to be a finger bandage. Proceedings were taken under Section 9 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, against the shopkeeper and he in turn held that the baker who supplied him with the bread was the responsible person. The case against the shopkeeper succeeded, and the shopkeeper was in turn successful in proving his case against the baker, who was fined £5.

Lubricating oil and fabric in bread

Warnings were issued to a bakery in the district after a small amount of lubricating oil or grease was found in a loaf of bread. This contaminant appeared to have got into the bread accidentally from machinery during the process of manufacture. The second warning followed the finding of what appeared to be a bit of cotton or linen fabric in a loaf supplied to a customer. This fabric appeared to have come from a prover bag which had become worn and entered the dough during the process of manufacture.

HOUSING

TABLE XXI Showing the number of houses owned by this Authority on 31. 12. 1953.

	Temp. Pre- fabs.	Perm. Pre- fabs.	Tradi- tional Houses	TOTAL
No. of houses owned by L.A. on 31/12/1953 ..	300	208	2,372	2,880
No. of houses in course of erection on 31/12/53 ..	—	—	146	146
No. of houses for which sanction had been given, but which had not been commenced on 31/12/53	—	—	191	191

TABLE XXII Number of houses erected during 1953 by the L.A. and by private enterprise.

	Temp. Pre- fabs.	Perm. Pre- fabs.	Tradi- tional Houses
By Local Authority	—	—	172
By private enterprise	—	—	15
TOTAL	—	—	187

The number of houses under construction by private enterprise during 1953, but not completed on 31. 12. 1953, was 13.

The Polo Grounds, New Inn

It is disappointing to find that the temporary accommodation here still housed seven families at the end of the year, which was a reduction of only one on the number at the end of 1952. All of these families, with the exception of one, have children of tender ages who should not be living in cold, damp and depressing nissen huts.

The seven families were composed as follows:—

Adults	15–20 years	5–15 years	2–5 years	Under 2 yrs.
11	5	10	1	4

TOTAL
31

This matter has already been adequately covered in annual reports since 1949, and further comment is unnecessary as rehousing is under consideration.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

The inspections carried out at Factories in the district during the year in connection with the maintenance of provisions for hygienic working conditions are given in the following tables.

These inspections showed conditions to be generally satisfactory and, where defects were found, correction was expeditiously undertaken.

TABLE XXIII Showing the number of factories and inspections thereof carried out during 1953.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occu- piers prose- cuted
		Inspec- tions	Written notices	
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	41	76	10	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	30	60	12	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	12	6	—
TOTAL	75	148	28	—

TABLE XXIV Shewing the defects found in factories and the action taken.

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	10	10	1	1
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :				
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	11	11	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	6	6	—	—
TOTAL	28	28	2	1

I wish to thank the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff, and likewise the other departments of the Authority for their co-operation during the year. It is also very worthy of note that the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector has been elected a Fellow of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, and I congratulate him on a well merited honour.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PONTYPOOL

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year 1953.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MARKET BUILDINGS,
CRANE STREET,
PONTYPOOL, MON.

Following is my report on work carried out by the Department
for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

NOTICES SERVED

Number Notices Sect. 9 H.A. 1936	..	..	135
„ „ Sect. 93 P.H.A. 1936..	..	..	191

DEFECTS IN DWELLINGS

Houses repaired externally	..	..	..	143
Houses repaired internally	..	..	..	182

DRAINAGE

Drains examined ..	..	..	..	40
Drains opened and cleansed	..	..	..	8
Drains connected to sewer	..	..	..	5
New drains provided ..	..	..	..	2
Defective drains repaired	..	..	..	12
Defective W.C's put in order	..	..	..	7
Defective flush tanks repaired or renewed	..	..	..	10
New tanks supplied to W.C's	..	..	..	8
New pans supplied to W.C's	..	..	..	7
New lavatories provided..	..	..	..	5

INSPECTION OF COUNCIL HOUSES

265 Council houses were inspected during the year, and with few exceptions these houses are well maintained.

5 disinfestations for vermin were carried out and no re-infestation was reported.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

7 houses were dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. 3 Closing Orders were made and one deferred.

3 Orders for Demolition were made. There are several cottages throughout the area which come under this category, but owing to the fact that some houses already dealt with as well as others in former clearance areas are still occupied, and the increasing demand for houses through other circumstances, progress can only be slow.

CARAVANS

One licence for siting a caravan for twelve months was issued, subject to the conditions being carried out, as laid down.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Inspections of Factories, workshops and workplaces have been carried out, and below is a report on inspections made:—

Premises	No. of Inspections	Notices Served	Action Necessary
Factories (including laundries)	76	10	Nil
Workshops	60	12	Nil
Workplaces	12	6	Nil

All Notices served in connection with these premises were complied with.

INSPECTIONS OF BAKEHOUSES

30 visits were made to the bakehouses. Notices for the abatement of nuisances were served and complied with.

In 10 cases liming was not up to the standard, but this was remedied without service of notices.

FRIED FISH SHOPS

22 visits were made to these premises, 3 notices served to abate nuisances, and all were complied with. The general condition of these premises is very satisfactory.

CINEMAS

Number of cinemas in the area	5
Number of inspections made	25
Notices served and complied with	Nil

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Below is my report of meat inspected at the Government Slaughter House, Abersychan, showing the number of cattle killed and meat condemned.

MEAT CONDEMNED

Beef – 9,508 lbs	Pork – 987 lbs	Mutton – 941 lbs
TOTAL – 11,436 lbs		

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1,609	261	797	17,602	1,426
Number inspected ..	1,609	261	797	17,602	1,426
<i>All diseases except</i>					
<i>Tuberculosis :—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	7	—	19	3
Carcases of which some ..					
part or Organ was					
condemned	69	132	8	653	53
Percentage of the number					
inspected affected with					
disease other than T.B.	4.4	56.57	1.0	8.6	3.8
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	11	—	—	6
Carcases of which some ..					
part or Organ was					
condemned	26	178	—	—	48
Percentage of the number					
inspected affected with					
Tuberculosis	2.05	72.50	—	—	3.85

OFFAL CONDEMNED

Cattle: 520 livers, 161 lungs, 20 melts, 116 heads and tongues, 9 hearts, 11 skirts, 11 udders, 14 tripes and 85 various organs.

Sheep: 2,364 livers, 1,166 lungs, 42 plucks, 5 heads and 8 various organs.

Calves: 4 livers.

Pigs: 39 livers, 9 lungs, 41 heads, 10 plucks and 4 other organs.

OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED

Beef 257 lbs, English Pork 69½ lbs, Imported Pork 72 lbs, Imported Beef 984 lbs, Liver 8½ lbs, Fish 10 stones, Lunch Meat 131 lbs, 92 tins Milk, 4 bottles Sauce, 18 tins Pork, 27 tins Beans, 88 tins Peas, 202 tins Plums, 9 Fish Paste, 75 tins Tomatoes, Ham 47 lbs, 12 tins Jam, 9 jars Jam, Bacon 23 lbs, 24 tins Strawberries, 6 tins Oranges, 23 tins Pears, 12 tins Damsons, fat Kidney 10 lbs, Cheese 18 lbs, 12 tins Peaches, 19 tins Raspberries, 16 tins Prunes, 21 tins Soup, 16 bots. Mayonnaise, 30 pkts. Dried Peas, 212 tins Fish, 20 tins Carrots, Jellied Veal 24 lbs, Suet 4½ lbs, 24 tins peaches, One Barrel Grapes, Ground Almonds 10 lbs, Mincemeat 24 lbs, 2 boxes Cut Peel and 28 Sundries.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All cases of Infectious Disease notified were dealt with by the Department, terminal disinfection carried out, and all precautions taken against the spread of the disease.

3 cases of Infectious Disease were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Environmental reports were made on all cases of tuberculosis notified.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is now only one Common Lodging House registered under the provisions of Section 238 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to serve the whole area, with a capacity for housing eleven men.

This house is clean and well managed.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

One Factory is registered under Section 2 of the Rag Flock Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT

One licence was granted under this Act.

WATER SUPPLY

2 samples of water were taken from springs and wells in various parts of the area, and submitted to the County Analyst for examination.

Both samples were found to be slightly unsatisfactory. Consumers were advised to boil the water.

84 samples were taken from the Company's Main Supply and 3 were unsatisfactory. Check samples were taken and found to be satisfactory.

180 samples were taken by the Company's Inspectors, and all were satisfactory.

HEAT TREATED MILK

117 samples of Heat Treated Milk were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Pasteurised	Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	Sterilised	Total
62	35	25	122

3 of the above samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test. Check samples taken following the report proved satisfactory.

DIRTY MILK BOTTLES

During the year it was found that firms pasteurising milk were using milk bottles which were inefficiently cleansed, and contained a dirt deposit to such an extent that it was found necessary to institute Court proceedings in three instances under Section 26 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

In each case, the offenders were fined - £5, £2 and £10 respectively.

A bottle of pasteurised milk was brought to the office and found to contain fragments of glass.

Proceedings against the firm were instituted, and a fine of £10 0 0 plus £8 8 0 costs was imposed on the firm concerned.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Sale of milk regulations, 1939

36 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

Foreign substances in Bread

A loaf of bread was found to contain a "finger bandage" embedded in the substance of the loaf.

Proceedings were taken against the Vendor under Section 9 of the Act, and the actual baker was summoned under Section 83 of the Act.

The Vendor was dismissed from the case, and the baker fined £5.

An investigation into the case of a loaf of bread containing fabric revealed that the substance was from the prover bags, used on the machine conveying the bread to the moulding machine.

The bags were found to be worn, and since new bags have been provided, no further complaint has arisen.

The firm was warned that proceedings would be taken against them if this form of contamination re-occurred.

ICE CREAM AND ICED LOLLIES

53 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological examination and placed in provisional grades as set out below:—

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
31	17	0	5

Investigation into the cause of unsatisfactory samples of ice cream produced under apparently perfect conditions revealed two interesting facts.

A server which was standing in the usual bowl of water, used without sterilising gave a grade 4 sample, but if the server was sterilised before the sample was taken, it proved satisfactory. The wiping with an apparently clean cloth after sterilising the utensils was another cause of contamination.

Three Iced Lollies were submitted to the Analyst for examination, and proved free from metallic contamination, and satisfactory.

ROOMS WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED AND INDUSTRIAL CANTEENS

64 inspections were carried out at Restaurant kitchens and works' canteens. It is pleasing to note that the general hygienic conditions at restaurants are well maintained and meals prepared and served under excellent conditions.

Canteens are well conducted and meals served under good conditions. Kitchens and utensils received special attention, and all are kept in a very satisfactory state of cleanliness.

The 16 premises registered for the manufacture of Butcher's smalls are maintained at a good standard of cleanliness.

INSPECTION OF SHOPS

364 visits were made to shops in the area, and it was found that the provisions of the Shops Act governing the health of the assistants were being observed.

Seats are provided for the assistants, and facilities for taking meals are satisfactory.

Sanitary arrangements are suitable and sufficient, and heating, lighting and ventilation satisfactory.

18 visits were paid to fried fish shops. Five notices were served for the abatement of nuisances found to exist, and complied with.

The condition of these shops is satisfactory, and a good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

CAFES AND CANTEENS

64 inspections were carried out at the Cafes and Canteens in the area. 7 notices served for abatement of nuisances, and all were complied with. Nineteen swabs were taken from knives, spoons, forks, glasses, etc., and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, and all the samples were found to be bacteriologically satisfactory, a very pleasing result of the Clean Food Campaign, which is being carried out in the area.

It is, however, very necessary for strict supervision to be maintained over these premises.

LICENSED PREMISES

60 visits were paid to Licensed Premises, and 14 notices served to abate nuisances found therein.

With very few exceptions, the Public Houses have hot and cold water laid on to the bars for washing up, and internal alterations have effected a considerable contribution to the hygienic serving of refreshments.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

6 complaints of Bug Infestation were dealt with, a good insecticide spray proved successful in abating the nuisance.

RODENT CONTROL

Council Property

Refuse Tips:

10 Inspections were carried out at Refuse Tips, and 10 infestations discovered and treated as under:—

1 Reservoir, 7 Major, 2 Minor Rat Infestations, 715 Points were laid, and 598 Prebait and 408 Poison takes noted.

Sewer Beds and River Banks:

14 Infestations were treated following the discovery of 1 Reservoir, 4 Major and 9 Minor Rat Infestations. 945 Points were laid and 804 Prebait and 520 Poison takes noted.

Council Depots:

6 Inspections were carried out at the Depots, and one Major, 3 Minor Rat Infestations, discovered, and two infestations by mice. 271 Points were laid, resulting in 187 Prebait and 154 Poison takes.

Pontypool Market:

13 visits were paid to stalls in Pontypool Market, and 13 Infestations by Mice were discovered and treated. 174 Points were laid and 187 Prebait and 154 Poison takes noted.

I must again emphasise the necessity for keeping gardens and back lanes free from scraps of food, etc., which encourages rats, and is undoubtedly the direct cause of rat infestation in private houses.

The Tradespeople of the town give every assistance in dealing with infestation on their premises, and once again I have to thank the officials of the Ministry for their help and advice.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. MEEK,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



